

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/351,235
Amendment dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of **July 9, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 13, 19-21, 24-28, 93, 95 and 101 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **July 9, 2003**.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 13, 19-21, 24-28 and 101 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 12, 13, 19-21, 24-28 and 101 have been amended to place them in independent form including the limitations of any base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, allowance of claims 12, 13, 19-21, 24-28 and 101 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-18, 22, 23, 93-100 and 102-105 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Tachibana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,262).

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The present invention is an image reader (100) having a housing (101) an image sensor (110) which is a line sensor made of a CCD. A lens (109) forms an image on the image sensor (110) as seen through a clear cover (102) and illuminated by a light source (108). A plurality of rollers (104) project from windows (101c) to come in contact with the document. A document detecting section (105) is used to detect the presence of a document. In alternate embodiments the document detecting section (105) may be a mechanical switch (201), or a photoelectric switch (301).

Tachibana et al. is a scanner device (1) which is used to read film. Included in the scanner device (1) is a converging lens (44) converging an image from the film to the line image CCD (46). Numerous rollers (21, 32 and 68) are used to move the film. An indicator (15) indicates the reading operation state of cartridge film, an indicator (16) indicates the reading operation state of standard film, and an indicator (17) indicates the reading operation state of original documents. Sensors (K1 and K2) are optical sensors comprised of photo-emitting photo-receptor diodes that enable detecting the presence of original documents. Sensor (K3) is used as a bar code reader. Sensor (K4) is a micro switch. Sensor (K5) is an end sensor and sensors (K6 and K7) are position sensors.

Claims 1 and 93 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An image reader for optically reading an image on a medium by means of manual operations comprising: a housing having an image reading surface coming in contact with the medium when reading an image; a medium detecting unit provided on the image reading surface for detecting the medium; an image reading unit provided on said housing for reading image information of the medium according to a result of detection by said medium detecting unit, and a display control unit to

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display a whole or a portion of an image contracted or enlarged by overlapping other images.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-18, 22, 23, 93-100 and 102-105 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Tachibana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,262) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tachibana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,262) in view of Nihei (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,425).

Nihei describes a rotary disk (69) as disclosed in figure 5.

Claim 6 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdraw of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tachibana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,262) in view of Nihei (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,425) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated

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below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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